

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 AID-05 /074 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:BA

APPROVED BY AF/W-THOMAS W.M. SMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 260354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SL, US

SUBJECT: CONTACT WITH SIERRA LEONE FOREIGN MINISTER
AT UNGA

1. OCTOBER 14, AF/W DIRECTOR CALLED ON SIERRA LEONE
FOREIGN MINISTER MINAH AT SIERRA LEONE MISSION IN NEW
YORK. SIERRA LEONE PERMREP GBUJOMA WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. MEETING BEGAN WITH BRIEF DISCUSSION OF STEVENS VISIT
TO U.S. IN MAY WHICH WAS LAST OCCASION ON WHICH DIRECTOR
AND MINAH HAD MET. MINAH THEN COMPLIMENTED U.S. INITIATIVES
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND SAID THAT PROGRESS APPEARED TO HAVE
BEEN MADE DESPITE MANY FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES. HE SUGGESTED
THAT IF COUNTRIES SUCH AS SIERRA LEONE WERE KEPT GENERALLY
INFORMED, IT MIGHT BE EASIER FOR THEM TO SUPPORT U.S.
INITIATIVES. AF/W DIRECTOR REPLIED IN VERY GENERAL SENSE
REGARDING THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY AND AGREED TO LOOK
INTO POSSIBILITIES FOR KEEPING GOSL INFORMED OF MAJOR
CHANGES IN SITUATION.

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3 MINAH THEN RECALLED PRESIDENT STEVENS' VISIT AND SAID THAT HE REMEMBERED PRESIDENT FORD HAD SAID THAT IN OCTOBER THE U.S. WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS AID TO SIERRA LEONE. AF/W DIRECTOR REPLIED THAT SIERRA LEONE PROJECT

OF WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER WAS AWARE WERE NOW BEING EXAMINED IN U.S. BUDGETARY PROCESS AND SAID THAT WE WOULD ASK AMBASSADOR SAMUELS TO BRIEF GOSL ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS.

4. AF/W DIRECTOR ASKED IF GOSL HAD MADE APPLICATION FOR RESCHEDULING OF ITS EXTERNAL DEBT BY PARIS CLUB. MINAH REPLIED THAT THEY HAD MADE SUCH A REQUEST, BUT HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE DETAILS BEING HANDLED BY OTHER MINISTRIES.

5. AF/W DIRECTOR ASKED MINAH'S VIEWS OF THE SITUATION IN GUINEA AND NOTED THAT WE ARE AWARE OF SEKOU TOURE'S CONCERNS REGARDING THE SECURITY OF GUINEA AND ITS GOVERNMENT. MINAH REPLIED THAT ACCURATE INFORMATION REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS IN GUINEA WERE EXTREMELY HARD TO COME BY. HE NOTED THAT THERE IS A CONSTANT MOVEMENT BETWEEN SIERRA LEONE AND GUINEA, PARTICULARLY BY THE FOULAHS WHO COME TO TRADE AND RETURN. SIERRA LEONE DOES NOT SEEK TO CONTROL THE BORDER TIGHTLY, AND TOLERATES THIS MOVEMENT. SIERRA LEONE HAD NOTICED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FOULAHS COMING TO SIERRA LEONE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS IN GUINEA. MINAH THOUGHT THERE WAS NO CREDIBLE THREAT TO

GUINEA FROM GUINEA'S NEIGHBORS, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF GUINEAN EXILES MIGHT WELL INCLUDE SOME WHO WISHED TO BRING DOWN SEKOU TOURE, ALTHOUGH HE DOUBTED THEIR ABILITY TO DO SO. AF/W DIRECTOR THANKED MINAH FOR HIS VIEWS AND SAID THAT THEY LARGELY COINCIDED WITH OUR OWN CONCLUSIONS. HE NOTED THAT THE U.S. WISHES TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH GUINEA AND TO THIS END WISHED TO ASCERTAIN THE VIEWS OF GUINEA'S NEIGHBORS REGARDING GUINEA'S CONCERNS FOR ITS SECURITY.

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